

Application No. 09/735,762  
Filed: December 13, 2000  
Group Art Unit: 1746

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract so that it reads as follows:

B | AAn apparatus and a method of operating a dry cleaning system ~~is~~are disclosed which ~~utilizes~~utilize liquid carbon dioxide as the cleaning medium. The apparatus comprises two~~Two~~ storage tanks ~~are employed~~ in conjunction with a cleaning vessel, where one~~One~~ of the storage tanks is employed for pressure equalization with the ~~cleaning vessel, while and~~ the other storage tank is employed for bulk solvent transfer to and from the cleaning vessel. The apparatus also comprises a return line from the cleaning vessel, which is routed back into the cleaning vessel where it forms a heat exchange coil. In the method of operating the dry cleaning system, the pressure equalization tank is used for absorbing temperature fluctuations and for providing efficient control of the transfer of the dry cleaning medium, using a compressor for subsequent bulk transfer. The temperature drop associated with pressure equalization is limited to residual liquid solvent in the pressure equalization tank. At the completion of substrate agitation in the cleaning vessel, liquid solvent is transferred back into the bulk transfer tank, while gaseous solvent is extracted into the pressure equalization tank. The temperature of the cleaning vessel and substrates drops during vapor recovery, while the temperature in the recovered vapor is elevated. The return line from the cleaning vessel is routed back into the cleaning vessel where it forms a heat exchange coil. To raise the temperature of the residual solvent in the pressure equalization tank, the recovered gas is introduced through the residual solvent through a sparging tube.